

taken of beneficial land use, while the foothills, the escarpment and the ranges behind it are being eroded by piecemeal urbanisation. I put it to the House that the most insidious erosion of all is that enabled through the application of section 33A of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act. By virtue of the decision of the State Planning Commission, areas of the Helena Valley and Jane Brook - to name two which were singled out for special attention in the System 6 report - have been deemed to be "not substantial". They are to be given over to close packed housing. Hence, where now there are open spaces, there soon will be geometrically ordered roads and houses; where now there are trees, there will be what a distant Prime Minister called "an awful lotta terracotta".

This is not an issue which serves the interests only of those who choose to live in the hills; it affects the lives of all who reside in the metropolitan area, not only through the quality of their urban environment - through water supplies, through recreational space, and through places where they can retreat, however briefly, from their daily environs - but also through the very way their lives are governed.

In the instances where decisions have already been made to rezone parts of the Helena Valley and Jane Brook from rural to urban, the objections of the substantial majority who live in the localities went unheeded. The opinions of others not directly affected, but who might want to see those parts of the metropolitan region conserved, were not sought, and their representative voice was denied because reference to Parliament was circumvented.

Those decisions, while seemingly unimportant in the order of things, illustrate my earlier point that ministerial authority has intruded into the rights and privileges of citizens. Each seemingly small decision of this kind disfranchises those with whom the authority of this Parliament ultimately resides, consolidates power in the hands of the bureaucracy, and progressively devalues democracy. That trend must be turned around, and, if we in this House are intelligent, we will enjoy the challenge of doing so.

Three things should condition the alternative: First, the requirements of ordered urban planning should not usurp the parliamentary process. Second, authority should be devolved upon the people whose lives are governed, and not focused in the hands of those who govern. Third, authoritative decision making should be upward from the people, not imposed downward from their elected representatives.

A few years ago the Minister for Planning at the time proposed the establishment of a Darling Range Development Authority. Like many other good ideas conceived in this Government, it was somehow aborted. A Press release announced it, but the idea has never surfaced again. I believe it is an idea whose time probably has come. It is an opportunity to restore rationale to the planning process, and provided that it enables the authoritative participation of all interested parties, it might well serve as a model for public sector management in the future.

I commend the motion to the House.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

[Applause.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

HON M.S. MONTGOMERY (South West) [7.31 pm]: Mr President, I rise in support of the motion moved by Hon George Cash and in so doing I congratulate you on your re-election and all that that entails, and on the confidence that this Chamber has expressed in you in re-electing you to the highest office in this House. I also congratulate Hon Jim Brown on his election as Chairman of Committees, and all other Legislative Councillors who have been elected to serve on the various Standing Committees of this House.

As I stand here and make my maiden speech in this place I feel humble in the knowledge of the great record of achievements of people who have served Western Australia through their membership of this House. History tends to judge more favourably the achievements of those who have led this State through good times than those who led our forebears in bad times. I am convinced, though, that good leadership is more difficult to maintain when times are tough than when the economy is booming; and Western Australia, for the most part, has been blessed with good leadership in both good times and bad. Those of us who are now members of this House, particularly those who are newly elected, owe much to the people

who have preceded us. If we look back to the earlier days of this House it is easy for all of us, with the benefit of hindsight, to see that Western Australia was a sleeping giant waiting to be woken. It is to the credit of those who served in this Council 50 years ago, or 100 or 150 years ago, that they saw in advance the potential of this State. The sleeping giant of Western Australia awoke suddenly during the 1890s when gold fever gripped this State. The State was anaesthetised during and by the Depression some 40 years later. Too many of us have parents or grandparents who have told us of the terrible hardships that many Western Australian families endured during that Depression.

All the way through the modern history of Western Australia agriculture has been the quiet achiever, but developments in the 1950s and 1960s propelled our economy forward and we became a model of growth that other parts of Australia could only dream about. The large scale introduction of superphosphate, trace elements and subterranean clover revolutionised agriculture and opened the way to expansion on an unprecedented scale. While this was going on, the opening up of our State's vast iron ore resources meant that the giant of Western Australia was well and truly awoken. Now, 20 years on, we enjoy a standard of living created by the boom period, but we are also facing a variety of consequences that are directly attributable to that frantic, exciting and very successful period in Western Australia's economic history. We have serious environmental consequences to deal with but we have the economic consequence that our State economy is still almost totally dependent on agriculture and mining. We as a community have developed a complacent attitude towards the need to work hard in a competitive world economy if we are to maintain a healthy future for generations of Western Australians to come. These are the issues that this generation of parliamentarians must address.

The area of the State that I represent, South West Region, is undoubtedly a key player in the future economic development of Western Australia. We must get our act together on industrial planning. We have the considerable benefit of being able to learn from the mistakes of others - mistakes that have been made elsewhere in the world. We must ensure that economic development minimises the incidence of pollution in all its forms. For example, the air pollution in Perth has increased in the last 30 years. I can remember the days when one could come over the hills at Armadale and be able to see the sea. As well, in Bunbury over the last 10 years one has been able to see a definite worsening of the pollution. We must take action in order to ensure we do not go down the same road that many cities in the world have taken. A comprehensive regional policy that concentrates not just on Bunbury will open up great opportunities for visionary industrial planning. Industries should be compatible with the region and, as far as possible, with each other within each regional growth centre.

We must also recognise that the ocean is not a receptacle for effluent and industrial waste. Waste disposal is a problem that we have not given its due priority. The dumping of waste is merely a relocation of pollution. Even though it is highly sensitive and is less glamorous than saving forests and wilderness areas, waste disposal is a major environmental issue and we must not shy away from it.

Mr President, I now take up an issue raised by my colleague, Hon Bob Thomas, which greatly concerns many communities in the south west; that is, the issue of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, or jarrah dieback, as it is more commonly known. This disease could spread into the agriculture, horticulture and floriculture industries. Laboratory research has shown that fungal spores will attack crops, such as lupins, and vines, such as grapevines, as well as various species of the protea family used in the floriculture export industry. Home gardens do not escape because certain branches of the camellia family can be attacked. As little as half a teaspoon of soil dropped from a vehicle can start a new outbreak. The vehicles do not need to drive into affected areas but can pick up the soil from the road when travelling on gravel. The disease can also be spread by moving water; thus the rivers and streams in various areas are threatened. I cannot stress too greatly the need for more effort and resources to be diverted into research in this area. If we do not stay on top of the problem some plant species will disappear within a generation; the situation is so serious. I thank Hon Bob Thomas for his comments; certainly, I would like to work with him in this area.

Mr President, some debate has taken place on a proposal to introduce a pulp mill in the south west. In my view, blanket opposition to the proposal is ludicrous. Debate should not remain dominated by unruly extremists. The question is not about whether the pulp mill proposal

should go ahead, but about environmental standards to be met. A paper pulp mill will create employment and is a sort of value-adding process which this State should be developing. Surely everybody understands the urgent need to increase the value of our exports; a paper pulp mill should go ahead. The proposal has been made all the more attractive by the large-scale planting of seedlings in the south west throughout the timber industry. WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd has planted 3.5 million seedlings in 1989 and is to be congratulated, along with other private ventures. The farming sector is also responding to the need for more trees. However, the Government should recognise that it has a key role to play in improving the incentives that already exist so that the momentum can be maintained within the private sector. Prime agricultural land, particularly around Manjimup, should not be used for planting trees as there is little enough of this prime horticultural land. However, I suggest that some of the areas of degenerated forest under State Government control could be selectively replanted to eucalyptus species tolerant to jarrah dieback disease in an effort to revitalise these areas without upsetting totally the regional ecology.

One of the areas of State Government responsibility that concerns me and my electorate is that of road funding. The actions of the Commonwealth Government are to be condemned on two counts: First, its abuse of fuel taxes and, secondly, its abuse of the Constitution. Roads are a State Government responsibility and Canberra's abuse of section 96 of the Constitution, which appears as road signs put up by the Commonwealth to congratulate itself on its road building program, is outrageous. The money that Canberra collects from fuel taxes is not for that Government to fritter away on bureaucracies that duplicate State Government functions. The lion's share of the blame for the deterioration of roads throughout this State, and in the country areas in particular, rests squarely with Canberra. However, the State Government could and should take action to help dilute the disastrous effect of Canberra's policy on roads. In a rapidly developing economy such as that in the south west, State Government and local government roads are put under a lot of pressure. Development means construction material and equipment being transported to the south west; successful development means products for both local and export markets being transported out of the south west. It also means more workers using roads to get to and from work. State, local, and Commonwealth Governments must play their respective parts in ensuring adequate standards of this vital infrastructure. That means cooperation between the three levels of Government. We do not have that cooperation at the moment.

The Commonwealth Government must return more of its 26¢ per litre fuel tax to the States. That money must be returned to roads without strings attached. The State Government must use its fuel tax revenue on roads. The recent attempt by the State Government to increase the amount of its fuel tax revenue to be diverted away from roads is proof that the State Government is making the same mistake as its Federal counterpart, albeit in a smaller way. I am pleased that the State Government has come to its senses and accepted the National Party's demand regarding the fuel tax increase, and that all the additional revenue will be spent on roads - and 70 per cent of that will be spent in the country. It is a small step in the right direction but a much more responsible attitude towards the use of fuel taxes must be adopted by both the Commonwealth and the State Governments. If this does not happen, it may well be that we will see more roads being returned to a gravel surface, as occurred in the Harvey Shire in 1984.

Another area of State Government responsibility that greatly concerns me is that of education. It is also another policy area where Canberra is an uninvited and unwelcome intruder. Successive State Governments - members should note that I do not confine my comments to the present State Government - have let rural communities down badly in the area of capital expenditure in schools. The policy on capital expenditure in country schools has been on an ad hoc basis - putting out the fires. But many country communities have had to wait until local schools are almost falling down around them, and pressure being put on excessive resources go well beyond the point while nothing happens at head office. Several schools in the south west have been in this position, the most notable being that of the Pemberton District High School. I am pleased to note that the Government has taken up the issue within the present Budget, but members should compare that with the capital expenditure being made in politically sensitive parts of the metropolitan area. I do not begrudge those children the excellent conditions they enjoy, but it seems the Government is making only a half-hearted attempt to embrace the concept of equal opportunity in education when considering the relative inequality of so many country schools.

I suggest it may be appropriate to require all teachers to have a first aid certificate. Currently, all students undertaking an associate diploma of social science in child care course - known as the triple "C" - are required to complete a St John Ambulance first aid course. I am not implying that teachers should have to develop professional skills in medicine. However, teachers are often the first adult contact that children have after an accident or sickness within the school grounds. Not all schools have a trained nurse on call. A basic knowledge of first aid by teachers could prove invaluable, particularly in country schools where a nurse is not immediately available and where parents are not always easily contacted.

While on the subject of education, I place on record my total support for the further development of the regional college in Albany. I am aware that events in relation to the university merger and the establishment of a distance education centre are crucial to what will happen in Albany. It is a great disappointment to me that this debate has degenerated into a power play between the State and Commonwealth Governments and I hold the Federal Government and the Federal Minister wholly responsible for that. The Minister is earning himself and his Government nothing but contempt for his cavalier attitude in kicking the future of distance education through the Albany Regional College around the political football field. It must be the goal of this Parliament to put students' needs ahead of political egos when deciding how best to enhance the opportunities for higher education in and through the Albany Regional College. The college needs not only improved facilities for lectures. It is also under-resourced and there are five demountables on the campus. It also needs improved computer and telecommunications capabilities. The goal must be to help Albany gain integrated facilities to enable it to offer courses beyond the first year. An obvious benefit of that is that education is an environmentally safe industry, something which economic planners should not forget. The need for these improvements is particularly urgent as participation rates in the Albany region are the highest throughout the country districts of WA.

Before concluding, I draw the attention of members to yet another attempted power grab by Canberra for the constitutional rights and responsibilities of this Parliament. I refer to a recent Commonwealth sport and recreation grant in excess of \$500 000. The point about that grant was that Canberra assumed its right to direct the specific detail of where that money should be spent. Sport and recreation policy is undoubtedly the constitutional responsibility of this Parliament. Canberra's actions in making that specific purpose grant is a direct challenge to this Parliament. If we ignore that challenge, Canberra will soon be doing to us in the area of sports policy what it is currently doing to us in the area of higher education. I have no doubt that constitutional lawyers will have a quaint phrase to describe what Canberra is doing in so many policy areas that are outside its constitutional jurisdiction. However, to me it is nothing but blackmail. This Parliament must be more aggressive in defence of its rights under the Australian Constitution. The only alternative is to allow Canberra to continue to whittle away at the Constitution, but, if that is allowed, before too long it will be worthless and Canberra will have unlimited power over us all.

Mr President, I thank you and the other members of this place for listening to me in silence. I am aware that this may not always be the case in the future. I look forward to participating in debates, no matter how lively they may become. I hope that all members will not shy away from stating their views on the various matters that come before this House. For a variety of reasons, the spotlight will be on this Chamber to an extent that it has never been on it before. It is probably true to say that it is in this place and not the other place where the key decisions will be made and where the parliamentary battles will be waged. In the short term, we may be judged on how we fare in those parliamentary battles, but in the long term we will be judged on the decisions we actually make. In the long run almost all party political feuding is irrelevant and forgotten. A famous economist once said, "In the long run we are all dead." It is what we leave behind for future generations that will count when history judges us. If this House allows party political feuding to develop to the extent that it prevents members from making rational and responsible decisions, history will not be kind to any of us and rightly so.

I appeal to all members to recognise vocal minority interests for what they are. Parliaments around the free world are open to the criticism that they have spent too much time responding to the demands of these noisy but generally unrepresentative lobby groups. We

are here to legislate for all Western Australians. If we are to do that, we may often have to look past the demands of these groups.

Like all other new members of this place, I look forward to the next three and a half years with a mixture of excitement and awe. I hope that, no matter how intense the debates become from time to time, we all remember why we are here. I hope also that the eighty-niners - those of us elected for the first time in 1989 - will, when the time comes to hang up our hats, feel that it has all been worthwhile. I commend the motion.

[Applause.]

HON REG DAVIES (North Metropolitan) [7.57 pm]: It is a privilege for me to speak in the debate on the motion moved by Hon George Cash earlier this evening. As I rise to make my maiden speech in this House, I am aware of the enormous responsibilities that the people of North Metropolitan Region have entrusted to me. I am particularly conscious of my obligation to represent, to the full extent of my ability, all citizens from as far afield as Two Rocks in the north to Mosman Park in the south.

It is with the utmost sincerity that I say what a great honour it is to be one of those elected to the Parliament of Western Australia. For the next four years it will be my privilege to represent people with wide ranging aspirations, differing opinions, a variety of political persuasions and from areas with diverse socioeconomic groupings such as Jutland Parade in Dalkeith to Hurlston Way in Koondoola. I believe my election to Parliament was a foregone conclusion from the day I was endorsed by my party, not because of my outstanding attributes nor even my personal charm and charisma, but because of the outstanding support team whose members worked so hard to secure my election. I shall remain indebted to those dedicated Liberals for their strong support, including my friend, Paul Filing, who initially directed me towards a political career. He has always been staunch in his support, especially during the difficult times, and Heather Martin is my self-appointed guardian angel; her encouragement, concern and kindness have always been a comfort to me. Foremost in my mind this evening is my family, and in particular my wife, Kaye, together with our sons, Jamie and Adam. It is due to their support, love, understanding and tolerance that I am able to take my place here and I know that with the continued support of Kaye and the boys I will indeed be able to effectively represent my myriad constituents. To single out the individuals within a big team is always perilous as one may inadvertently fail to mention a valuable contribution. However, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the outstanding performance of the 14 Liberal Legislative Assembly candidates in North Metropolitan Region during the February State election. Their efforts undoubtedly enabled me to gain the necessary quota for my election. I was most fortunate to be part of a dynamic upper House team; some very good friendships were developed in the long lead-up to the election. I must pay tribute to those members who had unwinnable positions on the Liberal Party ticket: I refer to Chris Ellison, Wendy Cole and Rod Burr. Their support and enthusiasm did not wane throughout the entire campaign, and they were an inspiration to us all. Of course, the generosity of the Greypower Party in allocating its preferences to the Liberal Party contributed to our success in achieving four seats in North Metropolitan Region. The support that this new political force managed to muster in such a short time must serve as a warning to major political parties. The diagnosis is there: Our ageing citizens will no longer take a back seat and allow Governments to sacrifice their needs and aspirations. Surely, as members of Parliament our duty is to ensure immediate policies which ease the burden on our senior citizens to enable their autumn years to be spent in both dignity and comfort. After all, is not this their right?

Another major upsurge in interest is currently being demonstrated. In the recent State election we witnessed the emergence of an important social and environmental group through a variety of concerned citizens. In a short period we have become aware that there is now effective public acknowledgment of the need to protect our environment; that is, for a sensitive approach to pollution management and control. It must be acknowledged that Western Australia is not exempt. Indeed, it is incumbent upon the Government to lead the way in initiating extensive research into energy modelling, pollution assessment, and risk management. I trust that this in turn will lead to translation into agreements for industry to follow. We all know that the greenhouse effect is not merely a trendy catch phrase, but rather indicates the gradual warming of the earth, which will eventually lead to the deterioration of our environment. Most people believe that the near term effects of the